This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying changes in television viewing preferences of an individual, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a viewing history indicating a set of programs that have been watched by a user;

establishing at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history;

generating a corresponding set of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , for a set of programs in a given time interval based on said at least two viewing history portions sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K; and

comparing said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K based on respective viewing history sub-sets, to identify a change in said viewer preferences.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing step further comprises the step of comparing the top-N (where N is a positive integer) recommended television programs in each set, S₁ and S_K.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating viewer profiles, P_1 and P_K , corresponding to said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K .

- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting a user with a set of recommended programs based on one or both of said sets of programs, S_1 and S_K .
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting a user with a union set of recommended programs based on said sets of programs, S₁ and S_K.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting a user with an intersection set of recommended programs based on said sets of programs, S_1 and S_K .
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting a user with a set of recommended programs, S_K, based on a more recent sub-set of said viewing history.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by uniformly randomly sampling sub-sets of television programs from said viewing history.
- 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by selecting a time span that is less than the entire time period covered by the viewing history.

- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said selected time span is an earlier similar time period to a given time interval.
- 11. (Currently Amended) A method for managing the storage of a viewer history in a television program recommender, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a viewing history indicating a set of programs that have been watched by a user;

establishing at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history;

generating viewer profiles, P_1 and P_K , corresponding to said at least two portions sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K ;

generating a corresponding set of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , for a set of programs in a given time interval based on said viewer profiles, P_1 and P_K ;

comparing said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , to identify a change in said viewer preferences; and

deleting a portion of said viewing history if said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K are substantially similar.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said comparing step further comprises the step of comparing the top-N (where N is a positive integer) recommended television programs in each set, S₁ and S_K.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by uniformly randomly sampling sub-sets of television programs from said viewing history.

- 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by selecting a time span that is less than the entire time period covered by the viewing history.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said selected time span is an earlier similar time period to a given time interval.
- 16. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying changes in television viewing preferences of an individual, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and
a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:
obtain a viewing history indicating a set of programs that have been watched
by a user;

establish at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history;

generate a corresponding set of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , for a set of programs in a given time interval based on said at least two viewing history portions sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K ; and

compare said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K based on respective viewing history sub-sets, to identify a change in said viewer preferences.

- 17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said processor compares the top-N (where N is a positive integer) recommended television programs in each set, S_1 and S_K .
- 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said processor is further configured to generate viewer profiles, P₁ and P_K, corresponding to said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K.
- 19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said processor is further configured to present a user with a set of recommended programs based on one or both of said sets of programs, S_1 and S_K .
- 20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said processor is further configured to present a user with a union set of recommended programs based on said sets of programs, S_1 and S_K .
- 21. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said processor is further configured to present a user with an intersection set of recommended programs based on said sets of programs, S_1 and S_K .

- 22. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said processor is further configured to present a user with a set of recommended programs, S_K, based on a more recent sub-set of said viewing history.
- 23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by uniformly randomly sampling sub-sets of television programs from said viewing history.
- 24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by selecting a time span that is less than the entire time period covered by the viewing history.
- 25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said selected time span is an earlier similar time period to a given time interval.
- 26. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the storage of a viewer history in a television program recommender, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

obtain a viewing history indicating a set of programs that have been watched

by a user;

establish at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K , from said viewing history;

generate viewer profiles, P₁ and P_K, corresponding to said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K;

generate a corresponding set of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , for a set of programs in a given time interval based on said viewer profiles, P_1 and P_K ; compare said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , to identify a change in said viewer preferences; and

delete a portion of said viewing history if said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K are substantially similar.

- 27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said processor compares the top-N (where N is a positive integer) recommended television programs in each set, S_1 and S_K .
- 28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by uniformly randomly sampling sub-sets of television programs from said viewing history.
- 29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH₁ and VH_K, from said viewing history are obtained by selecting a time span that is less than the entire time period covered by the viewing history.
- 30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said selected time span is an earlier similar time period to a given time interval.

31. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for identifying changes in television viewing preferences of an individual, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to obtain a viewing history indicating a set of programs that have been watched by a user;

a step to establish at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K , from said viewing history;

a step to generate a corresponding set of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , for a set of programs in a given time interval based on said at least two viewing history portions sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K ; and

a step to compare said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K based on respective viewing history sub-sets, to identify a change in said viewer preferences.

32. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for managing the storage of a viewer history in a television program recommender, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to obtain a viewing history indicating a set of programs that have been watched by a user;

a step to establish at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K , from said viewing history;

a step to generate viewer profiles, P_1 and P_K , corresponding to said at least two portions viewing history sub-sets, VH_1 and VH_K ;

a step to generate a corresponding set of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , for a set of programs in a given time interval based on said viewer profiles, P_1 and P_K ; a step to compare said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K , to identify a change in said viewer preferences; and

a step to delete a portion of said viewing history if said sets of program recommendation scores, S_1 and S_K are substantially similar.